



(19) Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 836 131 A2

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:  
15.04.1998 Bulletin 1998/16

(51) Int Cl. 6: G06F 1/00

(21) Application number: 97307128.5

(22) Date of filing: 15.09.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC  
NL PT SE  
Designated Extension States:  
AL LT LV RO SI

(30) Priority: 09.10.1996 US 728005

(71) Applicant: HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Palo Alto, California 94304-1181 (US)

(72) Inventors:  
• May, Gregory J.  
Corvallis, OR 97330 (US)  
• I'Anson, Colin  
Bristol, BS16 1JL (GB)

(74) Representative: Colgan, Stephen James et al  
CARPMAELS & RANSFORD  
43 Bloomsbury Square  
London WC1A 2RA (GB)

(54) Security of remote computing devices

(57) A management information system (11) provides protection for a remote computer (16-21). When a determination is made to invoke protection of the remote computer (16-21) the management information system (11) contacts the remote computer (16-21) using a communication path (10,12-15,22). The management information system (11) instructs the remote computer

(16-21) through the communication path (10,12-15,22) to perform an action to protect the remote computer (16-21). The remote computer (16-21) performs the action to protect the remote computer (16-21). For example, the action is to lock the remote computer (16-21) to prevent unauthorized use. Alternatively, the action is to erase or encrypt data within the remote computer (16-21) to prevent unauthorized access to the data.

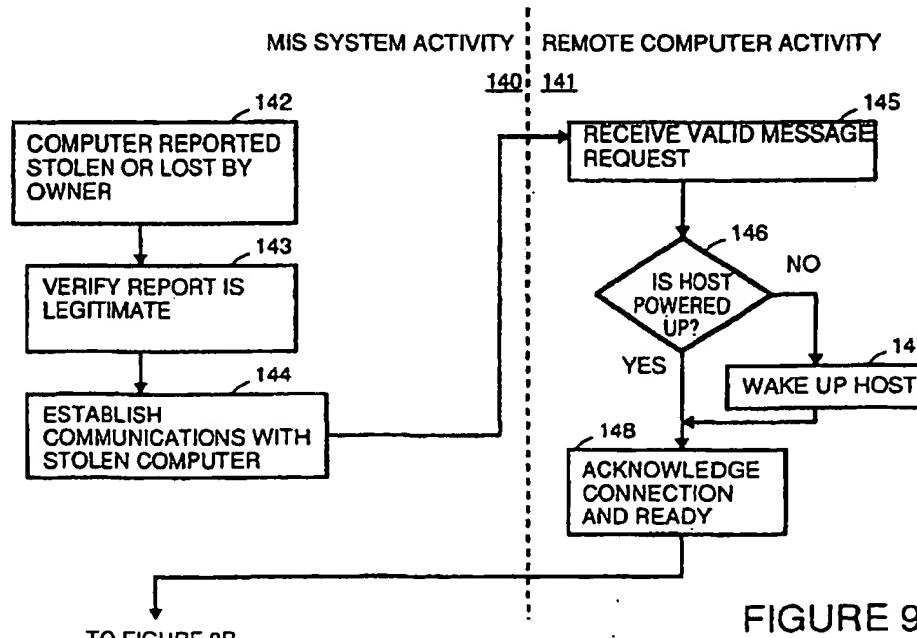


FIGURE 9A